

**Aloha means hello** to Jeff Cochran, Occupational and Safety Manager, who comes to HED from the Little Rock District. **Aloha means hello** to Jenelle Wong, Design Branch, Architectural Specifications Section, who is a participant in the Student Educational and Employment Program (STEP). **Aloha**



**means hello** to Dr. Molly Kihara, Environmental Technical Branch's water quality and regional dredging expert, who comes to HED from a position in the private sector. **Aloha means hello** to Andrew Kohashi, Chief, Army-Hawaii Branch of PPMD, who comes to HED from the Japan Engineer District.

## Punchbowl

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graved the words of sympathy expressed by President Lincoln to the mother of five sons killed in battle: "...The solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

Under an interservice agreement between agencies, HED's support has continued over the years in the form of various repair and maintenance projects throughout the cemetery.

When work needed to be done, "the Corps of Engineers came to my aid in a heartbeat," said Gene Castagnetti, cemetery director. "We began a partnership to preserve this national shrine. They've worked diligently to restore the memorial."

Completed projects include the repair and improvement of roads within Punchbowl, and the installation of irrigation and valve control systems. Restrooms at the Honolulu Memorial have been renovated to conform to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The interior and exterior surfaces of the memorial have been cleaned and sealed, metal handrails have been restored and preserved, and the grand staircase has been cleaned and sealed. Repair and restoration work has also been done on the reflecting pool and pumping system.

"The Army Corps of Engineers does a great job because they're responsive," said Castagnetti. "Our customers are all veterans; there's a military family connection."

Future projects to be completed by HED include the cleaning and sealing of the Courts of the Missing, repair or replacement of the upper and lower plazas, and the procurement of tents/sunshades and chairs to accommodate the nearly 100 ceremonies conducted each year at the cemetery.

"We want to continue the very good partnership we have with the Army Corps of Engineers," said Castagnetti. "They take on jobs up here which really are small compared to some of the massive million dollar jobs that they have. We're comfortable with them. We're confident with them. They do a professional job."

The jobs that the Honolulu Engineer District takes on at Punchbowl may be relatively small, but HED's efforts have a wide impact. The National Cemetery of the Pacific has become an international symbol of selfless sacrifice, accommodating visitors from all over the world, said Castagnetti. More than 5.5 million visitors come to these hallowed grounds annually to pay their respects.

"Every job is important, no matter the size. It's always a pleasure to do work for them," said Nakahara. "Many of the contractors feel it's a small way of paying their respects to America's veterans as they maintain the facilities."

## Historical HED: A step back in time

### One year ago...

*Flooding on the Big Island in November tested several of HED's flood control projects, which performed as designed and prevented estimated losses as high as \$17 million.*

*Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers became the 50th Chief of Engineers in a ceremony October 23 at Fort Myer, Va.*

### Five years ago...

*POD's computer network infrastructure is upgraded, allowing for the full implementation of CEFMS.*

*Construction of the \$20 million Advanced Electro-Optical System (AEOS) telescope at the U.S. Air Force Space Surveillance Complex on Maui nears comple-*

*tion, with the installation of its uniquely retracting dome.*

### Ten years ago...

*Work continues to progress on the expansion of the Hale Koa Hotel at Fort DeRussy. Total project cost is estimated at \$100 million.*

*The Sand Island State Park shore protection project was dedicated October 30. The project was a joint effort of the Corps of Engineers, the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Hawaii citizens.*

*POD and HED surpassed the Combined Federal Campaign dollar goal, with contributions of more than \$52,300.*

*We sleep safe in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm. —George Orwell*